IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of processing rich media content, comprising the steps of:

a) combining a plurality of diverse rich media content into a single multimedia content file for use as a first input to an authoring tool;

b) creating an extensible markup language (XML) based textual specification for use as a second input to the authoring tool, wherein the XML-based textual specification comprises a user-specified vocabulary that defines one or more of the plurality of diverse rich media content and relationships between two or more of the plurality of diverse rich media content; and

c) combining the single multimedia content file and the XML-based textual specification in accordance with the user-specified vocabulary and using the authoring tool to create a composed multimedia content file for execution on a multimedia player.

editing the plurality of diverse rich media content using a graphical authoring tool;

creating a second XML-based textual specification file for the graphically edited rich media content; and

storing the composed multimedia content file and the second XML-based textual specification for access by one or more content creators.

2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

d) editing the XML-based textual specification by a user using a text editor.

3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of creating an XML-based textual specification further comprises the step of:

e) using an XML program to create the XML-based textual specification.

4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of combining the single multimedia content file and the XML-based textual specification further comprises the step of:

f) executing a batch processing program to combine the single multimedia content file and the XML-based textual specification.

5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

g) transmitting the plurality of diverse rich media content as a streaming digital file.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

k) downloading the composed multimedia content file for display to a user in an application.

9. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of transmitting the plurality of diverse rich media content as a streaming digital file further comprises the step of:

l) generating the streaming digital file as a sequence of frames.

10. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of transmitting the plurality of diverse rich media content as a streaming digital file further comprises the step of:

m) generating the streaming digital file as a binary file using a HotMedia format.

11. (Currently amended) An authoring system for creating text based rich media, comprising:

a) a processor for receiving a plurality of diverse rich media;

b) means for assembling the plurality of diverse rich media as a combined multimedia vehicle repository (MVR) file; and

c) means for automatically generating an XML-based textual specification comprising a user-specified vocabulary that defines one or more of the plurality of diverse rich media and relationships between two or more of the plurality of diverse rich media; and

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~~d)~~   means for combining the MVR file and the XML-based textual specification in accordance with the user-specified vocabulary to create an edited MVR file for execution on a multimedia player.

      <u>means for editing the plurality of diverse rich media content using a graphical authoring tool:</u>

      <u>means for creating a second XML-based textual specification file for the graphically edited rich media content; and</u>

      <u>means for storing the composed multimedia content file and the second XML-based textual specification for access by one or more content creators.</u>

12. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 11 further comprising:

~~e)~~   a batch processing program running on the processor for combining the combined MVR file and the XML-based textual specification as an edited MVR file.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 11 further comprising:

~~f)~~   an XML program running in the processor for translating descriptive text in combining the MVR file and the XML-based textual specification.

14-17.

18. (Currently amended) <u>An article of manufacture for processing rich media content, comprising a machine readable medium containing one or more programs which when executed implement the steps of:</u> ~~A program medium executable on a computer system, comprising:~~

~~a)~~   ~~program code in the medium~~ combining a plurality of diverse rich media content into a single multimedia content file as a first input to an authoring tool;

~~b)~~   ~~program code in the medium~~ creating an XML-based textual specification for use as a second input to the authoring tool, wherein the XML-based textual specification comprises a user-specified vocabulary that defines one or more of the plurality of diverse rich media content and relationships between two or more of the plurality of diverse rich media content; and

c) ~~program code in the medium~~ combining the single rich media content and the XML-based textual specification in accordance with the user-specified vocabulary and using the authoring tool to create a composed multimedia content file for execution on a multimedia player.

editing the plurality of diverse rich media content using a graphical authoring tool;

creating a second XML-based textual specification file for the graphically edited rich media content; and

storing the composed multimedia content file and the second XML-based textual specification for access by one or more content creators.

19. (Currently amended) The ~~program medium~~ article of manufacture of Claim 18 further comprising:

d) ~~program code in the medium~~ enabling the editing of the XML-based textual specification by a user using a text editor.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The ~~program medium~~ article of manufacture of Claim 18 further comprising:

f) ~~program code in the medium as~~ a batch processing program for combining the XML-based textual specification and the single multimedia content file.

22. (Currently amended) The ~~program medium~~ article of manufacture of Claim 18 further comprising:

g) ~~program code in the medium for~~ transmitting the plurality of diverse rich media content as a streaming digital file.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The ~~program medium~~ article of manufacture of Claim 18 further comprising:

~~k)~~ ~~program code in the medium for~~ downloading the composed multimedia content file for display to a user in an ebusiness application.

26. (Currently amended) The ~~program medium~~ article of manufacture of Claim 22 further comprising:

~~l)~~ ~~program code in the medium for~~ generating the streaming digital file as a sequence of frames.

27. (Currently amended) The ~~program medium~~ article of manufacture of Claim 22 further comprises:

~~m)~~ ~~program code in the medium for~~ generating the streaming digital file as a binary file in a HotMedia format.

28. (Canceled)